

26.(New) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:
condensing vapor from the atmosphere of a controlled environment onto a dielectric article to form a condensate thereon, said condensing comprising increasing the pressure on the atmosphere of the controlled environment such that the vapor condenses on the article; and then
drying the article.

27.(New) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:
condensing vapor from the atmosphere of a controlled environment onto a dielectric article by an adiabatic expansion to form a condensate on the dielectric article; and then
drying the article.

28.(New) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:
altering a first property of a controlled environment comprising atmosphere and liquid such that at least a portion of the liquid evaporates into the atmosphere to form vapor;
altering a second property of the environment such that the vapor condenses on the surface of a dielectric article; and then
drying the article.

29.(New) The method of claim 28, wherein the first property is selected from the group consisting of pressure, volume or temperature, or a combination thereof, and wherein the second property is selected from the group consisting of pressure, volume or temperature, or a combination thereof.

30.(New) The method of claim 29, wherein the first property comprises pressure and the second property comprises pressure.

31.(New) The method of claim 29, wherein the first property comprises volume and the second property comprises volume.

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32.(New) A method of making an electret, which method comprises:
condensing vapor from the atmosphere of a controlled environment onto a
dielectric article to form a condensate thereon, the dielectric article comprising a
nonconductive polymeric material, and the condensate comprising a polar liquid; and
drying the article to form an electret exhibiting a persistent electric charge.

33.(New) A method of making an electret comprising:
altering at least one property of a controlled environment so as to cause
the vapor of the atmosphere of the controlled environment to condense on a
dielectric article having a resistivity of greater than 10^{14} ohms-cm; and
drying the article to remove the condensate.

Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for kindly indicating that claims 5, 6, 8, and 18-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants have done this in the form of new claims 25-32 and respectfully request an indication of allowability as to these new claims. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity and not for reasons related to patentability.

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, December 1961 ("The IBM Bulletin").

The IBM Bulletin discloses a method of simultaneously exposing and developing a deformation image on a dielectric material. Claim 1 is directed to a method of making an electret that includes condensing vapor from an atmosphere of a controlled environment onto a dielectric article to form a condensate thereon, and then drying the article. It is undisputed that the IBM Bulletin fails to expressly teach a method of making an electret. The Office action relies on the doctrine of inherent anticipation in asserting that the method disclosed in the IBM Bulletin inherently produces an electret. "Inherent anticipation requires that the missing descriptive material is 'necessarily present,' not merely probably or possibly present, in the prior art." Trintec Industries, Inc. v. TOP U.S.A. Corp., ___ F.3d ___, July 2, 2002 (Fed. Cir. 2002), citing In re Robertson, 169 F.3d